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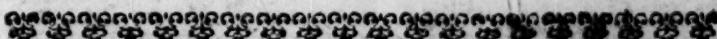
LETTER

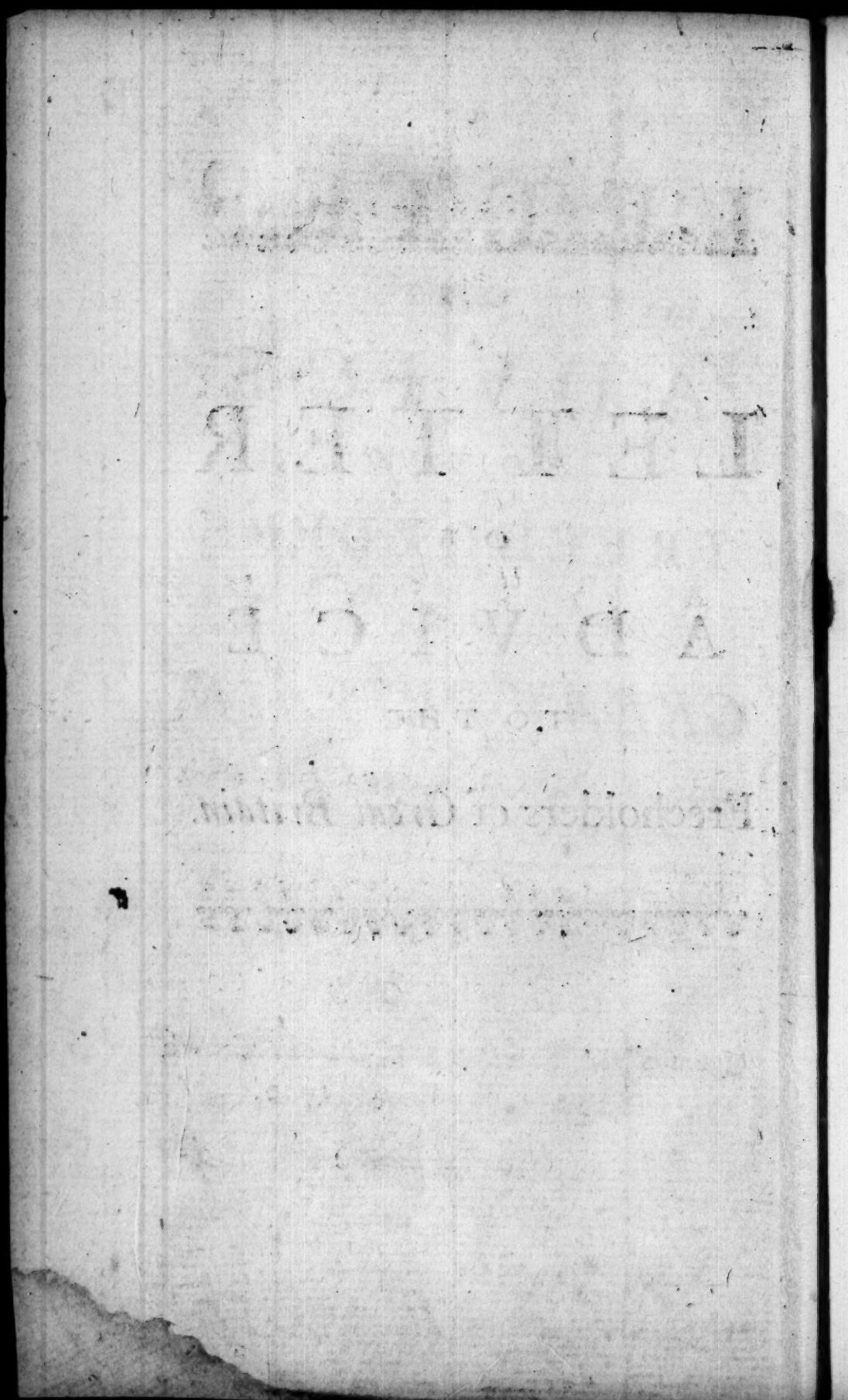
OF

ADVICE

TO THE

Freeholders of *Great Britain.*





A

# LETTER OR ADVICE TO THE FREEHOLDERS OF *GREAT BRITAIN.*

---

*Rejecit also dona Nocentium Vultu. Hor.*

---

By a LOVER of his COUNTRY. *R. & C.*

---

L O N D O N:

Printed for T. PAYNE, at the Crown  
in Pater-noster-Row. 1722.

(Price Six Pence.)

*April 17.*

RA 2527.22.680  
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# ADVICE

TO THE  
RENTOLDERS

OF  
GREAT BRITAIN

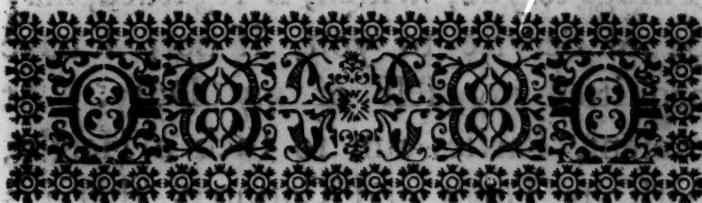
Printed at the Queen's Printer, 1700.

BY A FARMER OF HIS COUNTY.

LONDON:

Printed for T. Payne, in the County  
of Norfolk-Roxburgh.

(Title page)



# LETTER

OF

## *ADVICE, &c.*

GENTLEMEN,



LET my real Zeal, attone  
for my seeming Presump-  
tion, if I, who am one of  
you, must humbly take the  
Liberty to give you a Word of Advice  
concerning the Election you are going  
about; if Members may Submissively  
advise their Head, I hope a Fellow-

B

subject

subject may have leave to offer some Things to you, which, if regarded, may be of Service to you, if not, I have acquitted my self of my Duty. At present, Parties run to such a Height, both in Town and Country, that it's impossible, but what I write, must prove offensive to one side ; notwithstanding this, I am ready to stand the Censure of some, so as I do but discharge my Duty in regard to the Publick ; if that is happy, I shall share in its Happiness ; if otherwise, I cannot escape being involved in the same Fate ; neither would I by dishonourably sharing in the Plunder of it. I have so much love for my Country, as to desire rather to sink with it, than survive with the ignominious Name of a Betrayer of it. Let this, Gentlemen, serve as an Argument to convince you, that I shall advance nothing, but what I think is the Nation's Interest, and consequently that of every private Person. 'Tis the pure Love I bear to my Country, that carries me on to lay before you my Advice  
in

in this important Affair. I hope from whatever hand it comes, you will not despise wholesome Counsel, which may restore our Affairs at Home, and raise publick Credit Abroad.

'Tis not long since we have had a certain Prospect of a new Parliament to be chosен by you, and I thank God we are now past the fear of an Act to prolong the late Parliament, which I may venture to say, went as amicably Hand in Hand with the Ministry as it could wish, and how consistent such a Parliament is with the Liberty and Property of *England*, I leave every Man to judge, and then consider with themselves, what a Blessing it is that his Majesty puts it in your Power oncee more, to chuse such Men as may be an Honour to your Country, and a Check upon an avaritious Ministry, in whose Power it is when they have a *House of Commons* at their Beck to strip you of your Wealth and Liberties at once. This

is of Importance enough to demand your Care in this Election, and let me be free with you, if you intend to save poor *England*, you must take this general Measure, *viz.* to guide and fix your Choice upon Men you have reason to believe are able and dare serve their Country in spite of Corruption and Bribery.

The Words of the Writ, by which you are empowered to chuse your Representatives, (at least the Import of them is this,) *To chuse wise Men, fearing God, and hating Covetousness*; And *what to do* says the same Writ? *To advise the King of weighty Matters of the Kingdom.* Let us not then play the Fools or Knaves to neglect, and betray the common Interest of the Country, by a base Election; let neither Fear, Flattery, or Gain byass us. We must not make our publick Choice, the recompence of private Favours from our Neighbours; they must excuse us for that, the weight of the Matter will very

very well bare it. This is our Inheritance, all depends upon it. Men do not use to lend their Wives, or give their Children to satisfy personal Kindnesses, nor must we make a swap of our Birth-right (and that of our Posterities too) for a Mess of Pottage, a Feast, or a drinking Bout ; there can be no Proportion here, and therefore none must take it ill that we use our Freedom about that, which in its Constitution, is the great *Bulwark* of all our ancient *English* Liberties. Truly our not considering what it is to chuse a Parliament, and how much all is upon the Hazard in it, may at last lose us fatally by our own Choice ; for I must needs tell you, such is the happy Constitution and Frame of our Government, and so strongly have our Ancestors secured our Liberty and Property, that you can never be ruined, unless you become the Authors of your own Ruin ; you cannot be Enslaved, but with Chains of your own making ; and as you are never undone, 'till you  
are

are undone by Law, so you can never be undone by Law, 'till you chuse your own undoing Legislators ; and what Man then would Sacrifice his Throat to his own Hands ?

We the *Commons of England* are a great part of the fundamental Government of it, and three Rights are so peculiar and inherent to us, that if we will not throw them away for Fear or Favour, for Meat and Drink, or those other little present Profits that ill Men offer to tempt us with, they cannot be altered or abrogated. And this I thought to give you a hint off, that you may know what sort of Creatures you are, and what your Power is, least thro' Ignorance of your own Strength, you turn Slaves to the Humours of those, that properly and truly are but your Servants.

The first of thefe three Fundamentals is *Property*, that is, Right and Title to your own Liberties and Estates :

In

In this every Man is a sort of little Sovereign to himself. No Man has Power over his Person to imprison or hurt it, nor over his Estate to invade or usurp it. Only your own transgressing the Laws (and those of your own making too) lays you open to Loss, which is but the Punishment due to your Offences, and this but in Proportion to the Fault committed ; so that the Power of *England* is a legal Power, which truly Merits the Name of a Government; that which is not Legal is Tyranny, and not properly a Government. Now here the Law is Umpire between the *King*, *Lords*, and *Commons*, and the *Right and Property* is one in kind through all Degrees and Qualities in the Kingdom.

The second Fundamental, that is, your *Birth-right, and Inheritance, is Legislation*, or the Power of making Laws. No Law can be made or abrogated in *England* without you. Before *Henry* the Third's time, your Ancestors, the Free-

men

men of *England* met in their own Persons, but their Numbers much increasing, the Vastness of them, and the Confusion that must needs attend them, making such Assemblies not practicable for Busines, this way of Representatives was first pitch'd upon, as an expedient, both to maintain the *Commons* right, and to avoid the Confusion of those mighty Numbers. So that now, as well as then, no Law can be made, no Money levied, nor a Penny legally demanded (not even to defray the Charges of the Government) without your own consent.

The third great fundamental Right and Privilege is Executive, and holds Proportion with the other two, in order to compleat both your Freedom and Security, and that is *your Share in the judicatory Power*, in the Execution and Application of those Laws that you agree to be made, insomuch that no Man according to the ancient Laws of this Realm, can be adjudged in Matter either

either of Life, Liberty, or Estate, but it must be by the Judgment of his Country, that is, twelve Men of the Neighbourhood, commonly call'd a Jury.

Consider, Gentlemen, that there is nothing more your Interest, than for you to understand your Right in the Government, and to be constantly jealous over it; for your well-being depends entirely upon its Preservation. In all Ages there have been ill Men, and we to be sure are not without them now, such as being conscious to themselves of ill Things, and dare not stand a Parliament, would put a final Dissolution upon the very Constitution itself to be safe, that so we might never see another; but this being a Task too hard to compass, their next expedient is to make them for their turn, by directing and governing the Elections; and herein they are very artful, and too often successful, which indeed is worse for us than if we had none.

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For

For thus the Constitutions of Parliament, may be destroyed by Parliament, and we who by Law are free, may come to be made Slaves by Law, if then you are free, and resolve to be so; if you have any regard to God's Providence in giving you a Claim to so excellent a Constitution, if you will not void your own Rights, and lay a Foundation of Vasselage to your unborn Followers, the poor Posterity of your Loins, for whom God and Nature, and the Constitution of the Government have made you Trustees, then seriously weigh these following Particulars.

You must consider, that they whom you chuse will represent your Qualities, as well as your Persons; and if you send us up a false Glass, it will represent you with an ugly Face. You have hitherto had the repute of an ancient grave People, but if you chuse raw *Saplings*, *Greenbeads*, unexperienced *Children*, the World will judge you, as they once did the *Grecians*, that you were

were either always Children, or grown twice Children. You have formerly had the Character of a sober temperate Nation, but if you chuse Drunkards to represent you, they will conclude you are all Drunk ; it has sometimes been your Glory, that you were a generous People ; but if you send up a Company of sordid, saleable, and mercenary Souls to represent, or rather betray you, you will forfeit that Glory, and the World will judge that you your selves are become Mercenary.

Upon your Choice in this Election, depends Prosperity or Misery ; for we must either grow happy soon, or sink at once. If you are represented by Members, that will betray you to the Ambition and Avarice of a Ministry, you will find instead of paying the Nation's Debts, new Supplies granted to maintain them in their Exorbitances, publick Credit sink instead of rising, and the whole Nation instead of repairing its shattered State by the late

treacherous Proceeding of the *South-Sea Company*, may be, I say (which God forbid) sink into the Hands of an unlimited Power. This, Gentlemen, ought to stir you up to consider what Men are most requisite at such a ticklish point of Time, at a Time when your Credit (which is the very Soul of your Nation) is to be raised, or you may dwindle away into a petit Province, unable to resist a foreign Power should it invade you. Dreadful thought! but as dreadful as it is, 'tis unavoidable, unless the Wisdom of the Legislators provide early against it,

When I think of a Set of People, well known in *England* by their Writings, which tend directly to a Common-wealth, I cannot but fear they should get the upper-hand, if so, who can but dread the thought of a sponge, which may wipe out both Debts and the present Established Government at a sweep. Then the cry would be Liberty, but the consequence Slavery. Plenty would  
be

be the gawdy Bate to allure the Subject, but ~~Opposition~~ Apprehension would soon follow. A President for this we are all acquainted with in the Rump Parliament, when under the pretence of Liberty, we sacrificed a King, and changed the happiest Government into an outragious Common-wealth, where Men's Lives were as precarious, as the capritious Minds of their Governours.

We have a Set of People among us, whom I fear favour their Principles, and these I would have you enrol in your black List, as the avow'd Enemies of Monarchy, stigmatize them vwith a distinguishing Mark, that you may avoid them in your Election, as you vvould a Rock in the Ocean ; these are a People that vvould flatter you into a belief, they have no Design to undermine or betray your Interest ; their Policy lies in making you secure in your selves, that you may not be secure from them ; could they once sink you asleep, their Business is easily done ; could they once rise  
you

you up to an entire Confidence in them, they vwould soon throvv you headlong into Despair, and vwhen they have once mounted you above a reasonable Fear, they vwould sink you belovv all comfortable Hope; these are the Men ywhose cry is most for the Church, and have least of it at Heart; these are your subtile Eneinies, and therefore the more Dangerous. These are the Men that when you think 'em your greatest Friends, will strip you of all that can be dear to you, and your Posterity. Of hovv great Importance therefore your Care is in this Election, to guard against Men of such vile Principles, every Man who has the good of his Country at Heart, ought to judge,

I vwould not have you forget such Men as you find have been intrusted by the Nation to present it in former Parliaments, vwho have basely sold themselves, their Votes and You for annual *Pensions, gainful Offices, and can*

can give you a Reason too, why they have sold you, because they first bought you, and 'tis but reasonable that they who purchased your Votes in the Country at Elections, should sell their own in the House, and that at as dear a Rate as possible.

In your Election, receive no Man's Bribe or Gift, to chuse him, but be assured he will be basely false to you, that basely tempts you to be false to your Country, your self, and your Children. 'Tis nothing less than selling your Country, your Liberty, Property, and every Thing our Legislators have provided against Tyranny and Oppression. All honest Men will think they have given enough for their Choice, that they pay their Electors in a constant painful Attendance, but such as give Money to be chosen, would get Money by being chose ; their Design is not to serve you, but themselves, and then fare you well. It renders our Constitution contemptible, that any should

should say, I can be chosen if I'll spend Money enough. 'Tis said, and not without Reason, that an Election which ought to be a serious Thing, and grave-ly and soberly perform'd, is attended with more Drunkenness and Extrava-gancies than any wild May-games in use among us. Thus by making Men Law-breakers, we it seems make them fit for chusing Law-makers, their Choice being the Purchase of Excess. But must we always owe our Parliaments to Rioting and Drunkenness? And must Men be made incapable of all Choice, before they chuse their Legislators? Were you to chuse Arbitrators in any private Difference between each other, would you be as careless, and take a trifling Sum of a Man to chuse him an Arbitrator, who would be bribed to give it against you? Most certainly you would not, with what Reason then can you take a Bribe from them, on whose Honesty and Integrity depends all you, and your Posterity may enjoy for ever.

The

The next set of People I would have you avoid in your Election, are your *Pensioners*, or reputed *Pensioners*, 'tis not only highly against your Interest, but 'tis disgraceful to the Parliament you chuse. The Representatives of a Nation ought to consist of wise, sober, and valiant People, not of mean fordin'd Spirits, that would sell the Interest of the People that chuse them to advance their own, or be at the beck of some great Man in hopes of a lift to a good employ; pray beware of these, you need not be straitened, the Country is wide, and the Gentry numerous. I could wish it were possible for me to give you a List of the *Pensioners*, but that's out of my Power. If the late Parliament had been as just to the Nation's Interest in this particular, as the Parliament that was sitting in One Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Nine, it might have been done; for it appears in the Votes of Friday the 23d of

D

May,

*May, Anno Prædicto,* what effectual means the then sitting Members took to expose the *Pensioners* to publick View. *May* the 7th 1679, a Bill was read a second Time, for hindring any Members of the House from accepting any Office or Employment from the King during that Sessions; and it was resolv'd, *That all the Countries, Cities, and Corporations in England, were at that Time more highly concern'd than ever, to make Choice of such for Parliament Men as might not sell the People, but save them, to the happy Settlement of the bleeding Kingdom.* This was a resolve worthy the Representatives of a free People. I should be very glad to know, whether we stand not in full as much need of such Men now, as then. Now (if I may be allowed the Expression of a worthy Member of the last Parliament) *when Corruption and Bribery are become National Vices, and even threaten the Foundation of our Constitution, now when Men are packed*

packed together to serve the turn of a Ministry in Parliament, and are no ways fit, unless they throw away the Interest of their Country, and make it subservient to all other. The Bill I mentioned before was an admirable one, and one that was of service to the Nation in general, tho' disadvantageous to the Court, and a Person who accepted of a Place was no longer a Member of the House, but if the People had been bribed to rechuse such a Person as had forfeited his Seat in the House, they themselves had destroy'd the Law of their own making to hinder such Abuses.

~~considered that the whole of as~~  
*Chuse no Officer at Court, or whose Employment is durante bene placito,* neither do I mean this as a Reflection upon His Majesty, who being one part of the Government, should leave the other free, without the least awe or influence, to hinder its Proceedings. Besides, an *Officer at Court,* is under the temptation of being byass'd, and to

say true, *an Officer at Court to a Parliament Man, is but a softer Word for a Pension*, and the pretence it has above the other, is the Danger of it.

In the next place chuse no *indigent Person*, those naturally fall into the temptation of abusing their Trust to gain their own Ends; for such do not prefer you, which should be the end of their Choice, but raise themselves by you. Suspect all Men who offer to bribe high, for they are pretty sure to be repay'd, or they would never pay so dear for your Votes. 'Tis rare to find Men such Patriots as to squander away their Substance in Elections, purely out of love to their Country, nay, 'tis a Contradiction in its self to think an honest Man would basely bribe a Corporation to chuse him their Representative, when his Integrity in asserting the Rights and Privileges of those he represents, fully answers the end for which he was chose. And the Obligation ought

to lie upon the Corporation, and not upon the Representative.

I need not refresh your Memories with several Instances of late, which ought to mark out the Promoters as unfit Persons to be intrusted with the Nation's Safety, and ought likewise to over-power whatever Interest they may make in behalf of others. I mean, the *Betrayers of their Country*, and such as have endeavoured to *skreen* them from condign Punishment ; the Betrayers are well known, and I believe the People of *England* have given a good Guess at those that were the *Skreeners* of those false Men. 'Tis hard to say which of them has had the greatest Share in reducing the Nation's Interest to the lowest Ebb. And shall we then trust these very People with our Lives and Fortunes, who have once brought us to the brink of Destruction ? Or even any Body they can recommend ? For they certainly will represent those whose Interest they are chose by,

by, and not the Interest of those that chose them. For your better Instruction, peruse a List which I am informed will be Printed of the Voters in the last Parliament, by that you may learn how jealous several of the Members have been of your Liberties, and have not been ashamed to side with the Minority, having nothing more at Heart, than acquitting themselves with Honour, and a good Conscience of the Trust you reposed in them.

Let not those escape your Knowledge, who have these many Years voted *a standing Army*, a thing *England* was never subject too, but upon an urgent Necessity ; we have had terrible Frights and Fears from a *Gentleman beyond Seas*, we have had Invasions, when an Army was necessary to withstand the Bug-bare of *Papery and Arbitrary Power* ; but when *Papery* is flown to *Rome*, and *Arbitrary Power* I hope farther yet, they still vote an Army necessary, and a constant

stant Expence entail'd upon us, and I fear our Posterity too. If an eminent Danger be the only Reason that can be given for a standing Ar.ny, I think it but reasonable and just, that when that's once removed, all neighbouring Kingdoms, not only at Peace with us, but are likewise Guarantees for the Protestant Succession ; 'tis but reasonable, I say, that we should be freed from the Expence and Slavery of it, since no reasonable Grounds are left to fear an Invasion from any foreign Power. Time was, Gentlemen, when these very Men, who vote for a standing Army, thought it the greatest Grievance that could befall the Nation, to have fifteen or sixteen Thousand Men paid out of the Civil List, without its being an additional Burthen to the Nation. This then was a direct Step to Arbitrary Power, a standing Army was then the Nation's Rod, 'twas then the People's Burthen, and what was it not that could cast an odium on the keeping of a standing Army in *England* ?  
 'twas

'twas then against the very Foundation of Liberty and Property. Now times are so changed, that 'tis become easy; now some great Men *find no Inconvenience by it*, and I wish to God they may not find their own Convenience at the Expence of the whole Nation. Now, Gentlemen, if you resolve not to reject the Interest of such People as these, you must be contented to drudge on as you are, and if Hunger, or want of Pay, pinches the Red Coat, you may see your Children's Bread plucked from their Mouths; I do not say this will happen, or that any Man now living would justify such an Action, yet there may come over you *Blood-suckers*, that will take advantage of keeping up an Army, and who then will resist the Sword? Law may be no more than a Cypher, and our Land may be over-run with Locusts, and yet no presage of the last great Day. You can't be too secure in this Point, though probably it may not fall to your Shares to suffer

fer these Miseries, yet your Posterity may, if God in his Wrath should send an Alien to reign over you, one who may have no Ties of Love or Nature for you, nay, one whose Interest may be to plunder you for the Support of his Followers; these Miseries, I say, your Posterity may fall under, if our Representatives will Vote for such a President. Were the Reins of Government in any Hands, but those of his present Majesty, I should dread an approaching Misery, and that would make you more sensible of the Danger. I know, Gentlemen, were I to ask the Difference between a standing Army now, and one six or seven and thirty Years ago, the Answer would be made me, that it was then to establish *Pope-ry and Arbitrary Power*, and to overthrow the establish'd Church of the Nation; be it so, you see all People agree, that a standing Army was the Means to introduce an Absolute Monarchy, and change the established Government; it may then hereafter be

the Means to introduce *Mahomitanism*,  
*Arianism*, *Lutheranism*, *Judaism*, or any  
Sect that shall suit best with the Go-  
vernours of the Kingdom. You pre-  
vented the Designs of a standing Army,  
by calling over King *William*, who pre-  
served your Rights and Privileges. And  
I hope your Representatives will pre-  
vent the establishing of any new Sect,  
by the disbanding of the Army, and be  
always ready to grant it upon an ur-  
gent Necessity, for the Preservation of  
the Kingdom, and on no other Ac-  
count whatsoever. I would desire you  
all to inform your selves, as near as  
possible, what Men have constantly  
voted for it, and then guard your selves  
against such Men as make a Merit of  
giving up your Liberties and Proper-  
ties. The Gentlemen of the Red Cloth,  
you may be sure, find their Interest in  
keeping up of a standing Army, and  
while you chuse them, rest satisfied,  
they'll keep themselves in pay, let the  
cost be to the Nation what it will ;  
besides, they who fight for Money, will  
vote

vote for Money as a much easier Task. Another Reason presents it self to me, which is, that I think the Gentlemen differ but in Name from *Pensioners*, for 'tis as easy to order a Man to sell his Commission, as 'tis to withdraw a Pension for voting against a Ministry. I think, Gentlemen, my Reasons for your not chusing the Gentlemen of the Army for your Representatives, are sufficient to convince you of what ill consequence it may be to a free Parliament; they can't serve in the House and Field at once. In time of War they must serve Abroad, and the Business of the Corporation they represent, must lie neglected. I promise my self from these and several other Reasons, that you will not be so blinded with gawdy Cloaths and glittering Pelf, as to entail upon your Selves and Posterity, not only the annual Expence, but likewise the Slavery that constantly attends it.

Next to these, Gentlemen, I would have you avoid those who have been ready upon all Occasions to grant Supplies, without knowing the Use they are to be applied too. I remember a Bill past some time ago for Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds, which was to make the Nation easy and happy for ever after ; this was a fine Bait, and a trifling Sum for so great an End, but to this Day we have had no Account laid before the House how this Money has been expended, and I may say, we have for it, few or none of the Effects of it. It might have been employed to the fore-mentioned End, and yet not have met with the desired Success, still it ought not to have been a Secret to the Parliament that granted it, and we are not ignorant that an Account has been demanded, but a Majority in the late Parliament put a stop to it, and refused to make themselves Judges of the

laying

laying out of that Money. These are those I would have you set a black Brand upon, and assure your selves, that whilst they are a squandring away your Substance, they are a filling their own Purses. There's no Loyal Subject, I am sure, can be for refusing His Majesty Supplies to maintain the Dignity of the Crown, and defend his People in their Rights and Privileges from any Foreign Power. But to give away our Substance, we know not why, nor wherefore, who can see it without the utmost Regret ? 'Tis not the trifling Sum above-mentioned can hurt us, but its being often repeated amounts to the final Ruin and Destruction of the People. The Scripture tells us, That *the Almighty has set Bounds to the Ocean*, and says unto it, *Hitherto shall thy proud Waves come, and no farther*; but when shall we see Bounds set to the Profuseness of Men ? When shall

*we*

we see a Branch of the Nation's Ex-  
pence without a Deficiency ? When  
shall we see Patriots rise, whose on-  
ly Ambition will be the Glory of  
doing well, and be contented to be  
thought just and honest Men ? When  
such Men are your Representatives,  
Bribery will have no Effect. Then  
you may say, your Estates are your  
own, and your Liberty and Property  
secured to you in the strongest man-  
ner ; then Justice will reign through  
the whole Nation, and we shall all  
equally share in it. But Bribery, which  
is become a National Vice, serves now  
for packing of Parliaments, for the  
use of a Ministry, who dispose of  
you and your Fortunes as they please.  
If you can bear this, chuse them that  
will give you most Money, if not,  
you must take no Bribe, but chuse  
such as you have Reason to believe  
will be true to their Trust.

Now,

Now, dear Countrymen, that I have laid before you the means you have to prevent your utter Ruin, let it not be said when both are laid before you, you have chosen Misery before Felicity. Keep a tender Eye on your present Choice, upon those worthy Persons who answer'd the Trust reposed in them in the last Parliament, and where you find yourselves mistaken (and truly in some you were sadly mistaken) rectify your Error, and let your second Thoughts compensate whatever failing you were Guilty off in your last Choice. Be once for all resolved to chuse no *Pensioners*, now pretty well known in the World, who will sell their God, their King, their Country, for a Morsel of Bread. What Protection can you expect from them, whose only Substance, I may say, depends upon the Pleasure of the Court? Will you chuse them for Members, who were they

they not Members of the *House of Commons*, would probably be Free-holders of the common Goals. Think not once of opening your Mouths for such Men as these, who must follow the *Whistle of their Masters*, and whose Offices, Preferments, Salaries, and Court Employments lie so near their Hearts, that they have no room for their Country. Suspect them, who by Terror and Threats would awe you, or by Bribery, Feastings, and Entertainments, would allure you to prostitute your Voices for their Elections ; you may be assured they never would bid so high for your Suffrages, but that they know where to make their Markets. Let not *Beggars* be your Representatives, they will cut large Thongs out of your Sides, to spare their own, 'tis a Pleasure to them to become Levellers, and make you as poor as themselves ; how can they judge what is expedient for the Nation to spare, whose only Care is to get a Piece of Money

Money to spend. Truly, Gentlemen, you must give me leave to tell you, if you do not redress these Evils in your Choice, I fear God will permit you to fall into great Calamities by those you hate. You hate a Parliament should be at the Beck of a Ministry, yet you take the direct Method to bring it about : You hate, and with Reason too, to see your Nation run farther and farther in Debt, yet you chuse those very Men that are consenting to it, and give away your Substance on the Word of a Minister, without any farther Enquiry : You hate to see your Representatives bribed, yet you your selves set them an Example.

Now, Gentlemen, as you tender your Country's Good, your own, and your poor Posterity's Welfare, pluck up the *Old English* Spirit, there never was more need than at present, when Bribery is become so universal,

that you can hardly expect an Answer to a civil Question from some People, but they expect to be paid for it. Now is the critical Minute, if you intend to be free; now you must consider the Inconveniency you find in being represented by a corrupt Parliament, whose Interest is its God, and all for a trifling Sum you receive for your Votes: For this you chuse Men, who neglect, I will not say, betray the Nation, run it in Debt, and makes it indispensably necessary to lay those heavy Taxes we have laboured under so many Years, and instead of paying the Nation's Debts, they run into greater Extravagancies. This, Gentlemen, I leave to your consideration, I think it of no small consequence, but worthy mine and every true Englishman's Reflection, that has a Sense of the Blessing of being born a free Subject. If this Advice has any Effect upon you in regard to your next Election, I shall think

my

( 39 )

my self sufficiently rewarded for what  
I have done ; and shall only de-  
sire to be thought what in Reality  
I am.

*Philanglus.*

*F I N I S.*

